as emerging issues in the health sector for consideration of the Regional State Health Ministers' Conferences organised during the period June to November, 1998 at Hyderabad, Shillong, Sringar Ahmedabad and Calcutta.

There was a broad endorsement of the need to review the Health Policy with a view to addressing existing problems and future challenges. It was recommended inter-alia that an effective system for disease surveillance should be established, measures taken to upgrade the rural health infrastructure and to improve access to health services. The need to address the emerging health problems related to non-communicable diseases was also emphasised.

Recommendations were also made to formulate policies which would improve availability of personnel at the Primary Health Centres and rural hospitals and which would foster decentralisaton of health care services. Suggestions were also made to strengthen the enforcement machinery for the prevention of food adulteration and drug control, particularly at the State level; rational development of medical manpower to ensure availability of specialised and skilled professionals in underserved areas; harnessing the capacity of the private sector to augment the supply of essential health services; regulation of private facilities and insistence on proper standards, convergence of programmes relating to drinking water, urban waste disposal and air and water pollution and health to maximise the output from the process of development.

Upgradation of CGHS Pharmacists

*252. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 per cent Pharmacists to CGHS in the pay scale of Rs. 4500-7000 have been recently upgraded to Senior Pharmacists in the pay scale of Rs. 5000-8000; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of Pharmacists working at present in Delhi under different systems of medicines, benefited by this upgradation, with the date; and

(c) what are the reasons for not considering promotional posts to the above upgraded posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The reason for upgradation of the posts of Pharmacists is that there was no promotional avenue in the category of Pharmacists.

(b) The requisite information is given in statement. (*see* below).

(c) The upgraded Pharmacists who have been designated as Senior Pharmacists are performing the same duties and responsibilities as are being performed by other Pharmacists. Hence, the posts of Senior Pharmacists have not been considered as promotional posts.

Statement

Name of system	Number	Date
Allopathic	82	11.7.95
	3	1.8.95
	5	1.12.95
	1	1.4.96
	1	1.9.96
	1	1.1.97
	1	1.2.97
	1	1.6.97
Ayurvedic	9	11.7.95
Unani	2	11.7.95
Homoeopathic	5	11.7.95

बाल साहित्य अकादमी का गठन

*253. **श्रीमती सरोज दुबे:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर बाल साहित्य अकादमी का गठन करेगी;